

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting a target nucleic acid molecule in a sample, said method comprising:

providing a sample containing at least one molecule of a target nucleic acid and constituents for enabling amplification of the target nucleic acid molecule;

loading the sample into a sample chamber comprising a flow through channel, said sample chamber including a device for retaining a reaction product of amplification of the target nucleic acid;

subjecting the sample in said sample chamber to a homogeneous amplification assay comprising at least a first round of amplification under conditions such that amplification of said target nucleic acid occurs and a reaction product of the amplification of a single molecule of the target nucleic acid comprises a clonal amplified product having a detectable concentration within a portion of said sample chamber after said single round of amplification; and

detecting the clonal amplified product of said target nucleic acid after said single round of amplification.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting a target nucleic acid molecule in a sample, said method comprising:

providing a sample containing at least one molecule of a target nucleic acid and constituents for enabling amplification of the target nucleic acid molecule;

loading the sample into a sample chamber comprising a flow through channel, said sample chamber including means for retaining a reaction product of amplification of the target nucleic acid;

subjecting the sample to a homogeneous amplification assay comprising at least a first round of amplification under conditions such that amplification of said target nucleic acid occurs and a reaction product of the amplification of a single molecule of the target nucleic acid comprises a clonal amplified product having a detectable concentration within a portion of said sample chamber after said single round of amplification; and

detecting the clonal amplified product of said target nucleic acid after said single round of amplification.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting a target nucleic acid molecule in a sample, said method comprising:

loading a sample into a sample chamber comprising a flow through channel, said sample chamber comprising constituents for enabling amplification of a target nucleic acid, said sample chamber including a device for retaining a reaction product of amplification of the target nucleic acid;

subjecting the sample in said sample chamber to a homogeneous amplification assay comprising at least a first round of amplification under conditions such that amplification of said target nucleic acid occurs and a reaction product of the amplification of a single molecule of the target nucleic acid comprises a clonal amplified product having a detectable concentration within a portion of said sample chamber after said single round of amplification; and

detecting the clonal amplified product of said target nucleic acid after said single round of amplification.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting a target nucleic acid molecule in a sample, said method comprising:

loading a sample into a sample chamber comprising a flow through channel, said sample chamber comprising constituents for enabling amplification of a target nucleic acid, said sample chamber including means for retaining a reaction product of amplification of the target nucleic acid;

subjecting the sample to a homogeneous amplification assay comprising at least a first round of amplification under conditions such that amplification of said target nucleic acid occurs and a reaction product of the amplification of a single molecule of the target nucleic acid comprises a clonal amplified product having a detectable concentration within a portion of said sample chamber after said single round of amplification; and

detecting the clonal amplified product of said target nucleic acid after said single round of amplification.

5-8. (Canceled)

9. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting whether at least one molecule of a target nucleic acid is present in a first sample portion, said method comprising:

loading a first sample portion into a first sample chamber, said first sample portion comprising at least part of a sample, whereby if said first sample portion contains at least a single molecule of said target nucleic acid, said first sample portion would attain a detectable concentration of said target nucleic acid within a portion of said first sample chamber after a single round of amplification,

subjecting said first sample portion in said first sample chamber to at least a first amplification step; and then

determining whether said first sample portion contains at least one molecule of said target nucleic acid.

10-74. (Canceled)

75. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein said method for detecting whether at least one molecule of said target nucleic acid is present in said first sample portion is part of a procedure selected from among the group consisting of fertility procedures, immunology procedures, cytology procedures, gas analysis procedures and pharmaceutical screening procedures.

76. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein said loading of said first sample portion is carried out using at least centrifugal force.

77. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein said first sample portion is loaded into said first sample chamber through at least one ink jet.

78. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein said loading of said first sample portion is carried out using at least pressure.

79. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein said loading of said first sample portion is carried out using at least a vacuum.

80. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein said loading of said first sample portion is carried out using at least capillary action.

81. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein said loading of said first sample portion comprises applying a vacuum.

82. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein said loading of said first sample portion comprises applying suction.

83. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein said loading of said first sample portion comprises creating magnetic attraction.

84. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein said loading of said first sample portion comprises creating an electrophoretic force.

85. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein said loading of said first sample portion comprises creating a coulombic force.

86. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device comprising:
a first sample chamber; and
a first sample portion, said first sample portion being positioned in said first sample chamber, whereby if said first sample portion contains at least a single molecule of a target nucleic acid, said first sample portion would attain a detectable concentration of said target nucleic acid within a portion of said first sample chamber after a single round of amplification.

87. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device as recited in claim 86, wherein if said first sample portion contains at least a single molecule of said target nucleic acid, said first sample portion would attain a detectable concentration of said target nucleic acid within a portion of said first sample chamber after a single amplification step.

88. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device as recited in claim 86, wherein said first sample chamber further comprises constituents for enabling amplification of a target nucleic acid.

89. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device as recited in claim 86, wherein said single round of amplification comprises at least one thermocycle step.

90. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device as recited in claim 86, wherein said single round of amplification comprises at least one homogeneous amplification step.

91. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device as recited in claim 86, wherein said microfluidic device further comprises at least one cured displacing fluid which seals said first sample portion within said first sample chamber.

92. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device as recited in claim 86, wherein said microfluidic device further comprises at least one cured adhesive which seals said first sample portion within said first sample chamber.

93. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device as recited in claim 86, wherein said microfluidic device further comprises a sealing device adjacent to said first sample chamber.

94. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device as recited in claim 86, wherein said first sample chamber comprises a first microcapillary device.

95. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device as recited in claim 86, wherein said microfluidic device comprises a plurality of sample chambers.

96. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device comprising:
a first sample chamber; and
at least one amplification targeting reagent positioned in said first sample chamber,
whereby if a sample portion which comprises at least a single molecule of a target nucleic acid is positioned in said first sample chamber, said first sample portion would attain a detectable concentration of said target nucleic acid within a portion of said first sample chamber after a single round of amplification.

97. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device as recited in claim 96, wherein if said first sample portion contains at least a single molecule of said target nucleic acid, said first sample portion would attain a detectable concentration of said target nucleic acid within a portion of said first sample chamber after a single amplification step.

98. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device as recited in claim 96, wherein said first sample chamber further comprises constituents for enabling amplification of a target nucleic acid.

99. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device as recited in claim 96, wherein said single round of amplification comprises at least one thermocycle step.

100. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device as recited in claim 96, wherein said single round of amplification comprises at least one homogeneous amplification step.

101. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device as recited in claim 96, wherein said microfluidic device comprises a plurality of sample chambers.

102. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device as recited in claim 96, wherein said first sample chamber comprises a first microcapillary device.

103. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting whether at least one molecule of a target nucleic acid is present in a sample portion, said method comprising:

loading a first sample portion into a first porous sample structure, said first sample portion comprising at least part of a sample, whereby if said first sample portion contains at least a single molecule of said target nucleic acid, said first sample portion would attain a detectable concentration of said target nucleic acid within a portion of said first porous sample structure after a single round of amplification;

subjecting said first sample portion in said first porous sample structure to at least a first amplification step; and then

determining whether said first sample portion contains at least one molecule of said target nucleic acid.

104. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device comprising:

a first porous sample structure; and

a first sample portion, said first sample portion being positioned in said first porous sample structure, whereby if said first sample portion contains at least a single molecule of a target nucleic acid, said first sample portion would attain a detectable concentration of said target nucleic acid within a portion of said first porous sample structure after a single round of amplification.

105. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device comprising:

a first porous sample structure; and

at least one amplification targeting reagent positioned in said first porous sample structure,

whereby if a sample portion which comprises at least a single molecule of a target nucleic acid is positioned in said first porous sample structure, said sample portion would attain a detectable concentration of said target nucleic acid within a portion of said first porous sample structure after a single round of amplification.

106. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic assembly, comprising:

at least a first region having a first affinity to a first fluid sample; and

at least a second region having a second affinity to said first fluid sample,

said first affinity being greater than said second affinity,

at least a first reagent being positioned within at least said first region, said first reagent enabling amplification of a first target nucleic acid.

107. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic assembly as recited in claim 106, wherein said microfluidic assembly further comprises at least a third region, said third region having a third affinity to said first fluid sample, said third affinity being greater than said second affinity, and at least a second reagent being positioned within said third region, said second reagent enabling amplification of a second target nucleic acid.

108. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting whether at least one molecule of a target nucleic acid is present in a first sample portion, said method comprising:

loading a first sample portion into a first sample chamber, said first sample portion comprising at least part of a sample, whereby if said first sample portion contains at least a single molecule of said target nucleic acid, said first sample portion would attain a detectable concentration of said target nucleic acid within a portion of said first sample chamber after a single round of amplification, said first sample chamber comprising means for minimizing diffusion of said first sample portion;

subjecting said first sample portion in said first sample chamber to at least a first amplification step; and then

determining whether said first sample portion contains at least one molecule of said target nucleic acid.

109. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device comprising:

a first sample chamber; and

a first sample portion, said first sample portion being positioned in said first sample chamber, said first sample chamber comprising means for minimizing diffusion of said first sample portion, whereby if said first sample portion contains at least a single molecule of a target nucleic acid, said first sample portion would attain a detectable concentration of said

target nucleic acid within a portion of said first sample chamber after a single round of amplification.

110. (Withdrawn) A method for quantifying a number of molecules of at least a first target nucleic acid contained in a first sample, said method comprising:

loading a plurality of first sample portions into respective sample chambers, each of said first sample portions comprising part of a first sample, whereby any of said first sample portions which contains at least a single molecule of said first target nucleic acid would attain a detectable concentration of said first target nucleic acid after a single round of amplification;

subjecting each said first sample portion in said respective sample chambers to at least a first amplification step;

for each said first sample portion, determining whether said first sample portion contains at least one molecule of said first target nucleic acid; and then

quantifying a number of said first sample portions which contain at least one molecule of said first target nucleic acid.

111. (Withdrawn) A method for quantifying a number of molecules of at least a first target nucleic acid contained in a first sample, said method comprising:

loading at least a first sample portion into a first sample chamber, said first sample portion comprising at least a part of a first sample, whereby if said first sample portion contains at least a single molecule of a first target nucleic acid, said first sample portion would attain a detectable concentration of said first target nucleic acid within a portion of said first sample portion after a single round of amplification;

subjecting said first sample portion to at least a first amplification step;

determining whether said first sample portion contains at least one molecule of said first target nucleic acid; and then
quantifying a number of peaks indicative of said detectable concentration.

112. (Withdrawn) A method for quantifying a number of molecules of at least a first target nucleic acid contained in a first sample, said method comprising:

loading at least a first sample portion into a first sample chamber, said first sample portion comprising at least a part of said first sample, whereby if said first sample portion contains at least a single molecule of said first target nucleic acid, said first sample portion would attain a detectable concentration of said first target nucleic acid within a portion of said first sample portion after a single round of amplification;

subjecting said first sample portion in said first sample chamber to at least a first amplification step; and then

detecting an intensity of at least one peak indicative of said detectable concentration.

113. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting, for each of a plurality of sample portions, whether the sample portion includes at least one molecule of a target nucleic acid, said method comprising:

for each individual sample of a plurality of samples, loading at least one sample portion of said individual sample into at least one respective sample chamber of a plurality of sample chambers, each said sample portion comprising at least a part of said individual sample,

whereby for each individual sample portion, if said sample portion contains at least a single molecule of said target nucleic acid, said sample portion would attain a detectable

concentration of said target nucleic acid within a portion of said sample portion after a single round of amplification;

subjecting said sample portions to at least a first amplification step; and then

for each of a plurality of said sample portions, determining whether said sample portion contains at least one molecule of said target nucleic acid.

114. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device comprising:

a first element comprising a first surface;

a second element, said second element comprising a second surface, said second surface facing said first surface and being spaced from said first surface;

said first element comprising at least a first sample retaining element,

at least a portion of said first surface of said first element having a first affinity to a first fluid, and

said first sample retaining element having a second affinity to said first fluid, said second affinity differing from said first affinity at least in part as a result of at least one of said first surface and said first sample retaining element being subjected to at least one treatment selected from the group consisting of plasma treatments, ion embedding treatments, surface charging treatments, chemical treatments, optical treatments, electronic treatments and electromagnetic treatments.

115. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:

supplying a fluid sample to a flow-through channel defined between a first surface of a first element and a second surface of a second element, said second surface facing said first surface and being spaced from said first surface,

said first element comprising at least a first sample retaining element,

at least a portion of said first surface of said first element having a first affinity to a first fluid, and

said first sample retaining element having a second affinity to said first fluid, said second affinity differing from said first affinity at least in part as a result of at least one of said first sample retaining element and said first surface being subjected to at least one treatment selected from the group consisting of plasma treatments, ion embedding treatments, surface charging treatments, chemical treatments, optical treatments, electronic treatments and electromagnetic treatments.

116. (Withdrawn) A method of making a microfluidic device, said method comprising:

causing at least a first sample retaining element in a first element to at least temporarily have a second affinity to a first fluid, said second affinity differing from a first affinity of a first surface of said first element to said first fluid,

said first surface being spaced from a second surface of a second element, said second surface facing said first surface.

117. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device comprising:

at least one microcapillary device, said microcapillary device comprising at least a first sample retaining element, said first sample retaining element having at least a first surface which exhibits at least one characteristic selected from the group consisting of hydrophobicity, hydrophilicity, electromagnetic force exertion and electrostatic force exertion.

118. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device comprising:

a first element comprising a first surface;

a second element, said second element comprising a second surface, said second surface facing said first surface and being spaced from said first surface;

said first element comprising at least one hydrophilic pattern comprising at least a first sample retaining element,

said first surface of said first element having a first affinity to a first fluid, and

said first sample retaining element having a second affinity to said first fluid, said second affinity differing from said first affinity.

119. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:

supplying a fluid sample to a flow-through channel defined between a first surface of a first element and a second surface of a second element, said second surface facing said first surface and being spaced from said first surface; and

inducing in said first element at least one hydrophilic pattern by electrets or by internal or external electrodes to provide a charged surface, whereby said pattern in said first element has an affinity to a first fluid which differs from an affinity to said first fluid of portions of said first element outside of said hydrophilic pattern.

120. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:

loading a sample into a microfluidic device, said microfluidic device comprising plural sample chambers, said sample comprising at least a portion of a first fluid;

subdividing the sample into a plurality of sample portions, such that respective sample portions are positioned in each of a plurality of said sample chambers, each of said plurality of sample chambers having a respective volume such that if a sample portion positioned in said sample chamber comprises at least one molecule of a first target nucleic

acid, said first target nucleic acid would attain a detectable concentration in said sample chamber after a single round of amplification; and

subjecting the sample portions loaded into said respective sample chambers to at least a first amplification step.

121. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting whether at least one molecule of a first target nucleic acid is present in a sample and detecting whether at least one molecule of a second target nucleic acid is present in said sample, said method comprising:

loading a first portion of said sample into at least a first sample chamber, whereby if said first portion contains at least a single molecule of said first target nucleic acid, said first portion would attain a detectable concentration of said first target nucleic acid within a portion of said first sample chamber after a single round of amplification;

loading a second portion of said sample into at least a second sample chamber, whereby if said second portion contains at least a single molecule of said second target nucleic acid, said second portion would attain a detectable concentration of said second target nucleic acid within a portion of said second sample chamber after a single round of amplification;

subjecting said first portion in said first sample chamber to at least a first amplification step;

subjecting said second portion in said second sample chamber to at least a first amplification step; and then

determining whether said first portion contains at least one molecule of said first target nucleic acid and determining whether said second sample portion contains at least one molecule of said second target nucleic acid.

122. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting whether at least one molecule of a first target nucleic acid is present in a first sample and detecting whether at least one molecule of a second target nucleic acid is present in a second sample, said method comprising:

loading at least a portion of a first sample into at least a first sample chamber, whereby if said portion of said first sample contains at least a single molecule of said first target nucleic acid, said portion of said first sample would attain a detectable concentration of said first target nucleic acid within part of said first sample chamber after a single round of amplification;

loading at least a portion of a second sample into at least a second sample chamber, whereby if said portion of said second sample contains at least a single molecule of said second target nucleic acid, said portion of said second sample would attain a detectable concentration of said second target nucleic acid within part of said second sample chamber after a single round of amplification;

subjecting said portion of said first sample in said first sample chamber to at least a first amplification step;

subjecting said portion of said second sample in said second sample chamber to at least a first amplification step; and then

determining whether said portion of said first sample contains at least one molecule of said first target nucleic acid and determining whether said portion of said second sample contains at least one molecule of said second target nucleic acid.

123. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device comprising:

at least a first sample chamber, said first sample chamber comprising at least a first ingredient which will react with a first target nucleic acid if contacted with said first target nucleic acid and subjected to at least a first round of amplification; and

at least a second sample chamber, said second sample chamber comprising at least a second ingredient which will react with a second target nucleic acid if contacted with said second target nucleic acid and subjected to at least a first round of amplification,

such that:

if a first sample portion contains at least one molecule of said first target nucleic acid and is loaded into said first sample chamber, a reaction product of amplification of said first sample portion will attain a detectable concentration of said first target nucleic acid within at least a portion of said first sample chamber after a single round of amplification, and

if a second sample portion contains at least one molecule of said second target nucleic acid and is loaded into said second sample chamber, a reaction product of amplification of said second sample portion will attain a detectable concentration of said target nucleic acid within at least a portion of said second sample chamber after a single round of amplification.

124. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting whether at least one molecule of a first target nucleic acid is present in a first sample portion, said method comprising:

loading a first sample portion into a first sample chamber, said first sample chamber comprising at least a portion of an inside of a first microcapillary device, said first sample portion comprising at least part of a sample, whereby if said first sample portion contains at least a single molecule of said target nucleic acid, said first sample portion would attain a detectable concentration of said target nucleic acid within a portion of said first sample portion after a single round of amplification;

subjecting said first sample portion in said first sample chamber to at least a first amplification step; and then

determining whether said first sample portion contains at least one molecule of said target nucleic acid.

125. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device comprising:

a first sample chamber; and

a first sample portion, said first sample chamber comprising at least a portion of an inside of a first microcapillary device, said first sample portion being positioned in said first sample chamber, whereby if said first sample portion contains at least a single molecule of a target nucleic acid, said first sample portion would attain a detectable concentration of said target nucleic acid within a portion of said first sample chamber after a single round of amplification.

126. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic device comprising:

a first sample chamber; and

at least one amplification targeting reagent positioned in said first sample chamber, said first sample chamber comprising at least a portion of an inside of a first microcapillary device,

whereby if a sample portion which contains at least a single molecule of said target nucleic acid is loaded in said first sample chamber, said first sample portion would attain a detectable concentration of said target nucleic acid within a portion of said first sample chamber after a single round of amplification.

127. (Withdrawn) A microfluidic assembly, comprising:

at least a first microcapillary device, said microcapillary device defining at least a first sample chamber;

at least one reagent which enables amplification of a target nucleic acid, said at least one reagent being positioned within said sample chamber.

128-139. (Canceled)

140. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 picoliter or less.

141-142. (Canceled)

143. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 nanoliter or less.

144. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said sample has a volume of about 10 nanoliters or less.

145. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said sample has a volume of about 100 nanoliters or less.

146. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 microliter or less.

147. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting a target nucleic acid molecule in a sample, said method comprising:

providing a sample containing at least one molecule of a target nucleic acid and constituents for enabling amplification of the target nucleic acid molecule;

loading the sample into a sample chamber, said sample chamber including structure which limits diffusion of a reaction product of amplification of the target nucleic acid within a portion of the sample chamber;

subjecting the sample in said sample chamber to a homogeneous amplification assay comprising at least a first round of amplification under conditions such that amplification of said target nucleic acid occurs and a reaction product of the amplification of a single molecule of the target nucleic acid comprises a detectable concentration within said portion of said sample chamber after said first round of amplification; and

detecting said target nucleic acid.

148. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting a target nucleic acid molecule in a sample, said method comprising:

providing a sample containing at least one molecule of a target nucleic acid and constituents for enabling amplification of the target nucleic acid molecule;

loading the sample into a sample chamber, said sample chamber including means for limiting diffusion of a reaction product of amplification of the target nucleic acid within a portion of the sample chamber;

subjecting the sample in said sample chamber to a homogeneous amplification assay comprising at least a first round of amplification under conditions such that amplification of said target nucleic acid occurs and a reaction product of the amplification of a single

molecule of the target nucleic acid comprises a detectable concentration within said portion of said sample chamber after said first round of amplification; and
detecting said target nucleic acid.

149. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting a target nucleic acid molecule in a sample, said method comprising:

loading a sample into a sample chamber, said sample chamber comprising constituents for enabling amplification of a target nucleic acid molecule, said sample chamber including structure which limits diffusion of a reaction product of amplification of the target nucleic acid within a portion of the sample chamber;

subjecting the sample in said sample chamber to a homogeneous amplification assay comprising at least a first round of amplification under conditions such that amplification of said target nucleic acid occurs and a reaction product of the amplification of a single molecule of the target nucleic acid comprises a detectable concentration within said portion of said sample chamber after said first round of amplification; and
detecting said target nucleic acid.

150. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting a target nucleic acid molecule in a sample, said method comprising:

loading a sample into a sample chamber, said sample chamber comprising constituents for enabling amplification of a target nucleic acid molecule, said sample chamber including means for limiting diffusion of a reaction product of amplification of the target nucleic acid within a portion of the sample chamber;

subjecting the sample in said sample chamber to a homogeneous amplification assay comprising at least a first round of amplification under conditions such that amplification of

said target nucleic acid occurs and a reaction product of the amplification of a single molecule of the target nucleic acid comprises a detectable concentration within said portion of said sample chamber after said first round of amplification; and
detecting said target nucleic acid.

151. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said sample has a volume which is nanoliter-sized.

152. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 picoliter or less.

153. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 nanoliter or less.

154. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein said sample has a volume of about 10 nanoliters or less.

155. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein said sample has a volume of about 100 nanoliters or less.

156. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 microliter or less.

157. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein said sample chamber is confined in at least one dimension by opposing barriers separated by a dimension of about 100 microns or less.

158. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein said sample chamber is confined in at least one dimension by opposing barriers separated by a dimension of about 500 microns or less.

159. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein said sample chamber is positioned in a device which comprises a plurality of sample chambers.

160. (Canceled)

161. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 picoliter or less.

162. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 nanoliter or less.

163. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein said sample has a volume of about 10 nanoliters or less.

164. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein said sample has a volume of about 100 nanoliters or less.

165. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 microliter or less.

166. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein said sample chamber is confined in at least one dimension by opposing barriers separated by a dimension of about 100 microns or less.

167. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein said sample chamber is confined in at least one dimension by opposing barriers separated by a dimension of about 500 microns or less.

168. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein said sample chamber is positioned in a device which comprises a plurality of sample chambers.

169. (Canceled)

170. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 4, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 picoliter or less.

171. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 4, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 nanoliter or less.

172. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 4, wherein said sample has a volume of about 10 nanoliters or less.

173. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 4, wherein said sample has a volume of about 100 nanoliters or less.

174. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 4, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 microliter or less.

175. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 4, wherein said sample chamber is confined in at least one dimension by opposing barriers separated by a dimension of about 100 microns or less.

176. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 4, wherein said sample chamber is confined in at least one dimension by opposing barriers separated by a dimension of about 500 microns or less.

177. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 4, wherein said sample chamber is positioned in a device which comprises a plurality of sample chambers.

178. (Canceled)

179. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 147, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 picoliter or less.

180. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 147, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 nanoliter or less.

181. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 147, wherein said sample has a volume of about 10 nanoliters or less.

182. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 147, wherein said sample has a volume of about 100 nanoliters or less.

183. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 147, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 microliter or less.

184. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 147, wherein said sample chamber is confined in at least one dimension by opposing barriers separated by a dimension of about 100 microns or less.

185. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 147, wherein said sample chamber is confined in at least one dimension by opposing barriers separated by a dimension of about 500 microns or less.

186. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 147, wherein said sample chamber is positioned in a device which comprises a plurality of sample chambers.

187. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 147, wherein the sample chamber comprises a flow through channel.

188. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 148, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 picoliter or less.

189. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 148, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 nanoliter or less.

190. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 148, wherein said sample has a volume of about 10 nanoliters or less.

191. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 148, wherein said sample has a volume of about 100 nanoliters or less.

192. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 148, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 microliter or less.

193. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 148, wherein said sample chamber is confined in at least one dimension by opposing barriers separated by a dimension of about 100 microns or less.

194. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 148, wherein said sample chamber is confined in at least one dimension by opposing barriers separated by a dimension of about 500 microns or less.

195. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 148, wherein said sample chamber is positioned in a device which comprises a plurality of sample chambers.

196. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 148, wherein the sample chamber comprises a flow through channel.

197. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 149, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 picoliter or less.

198. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 149, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 nanoliter or less.

199. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 149, wherein said sample has a volume of about 10 nanoliters or less.

200. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 149, wherein said sample has a volume of about 100 nanoliters or less.

201. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 149, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 microliter or less.

202. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 149, wherein said sample chamber is confined in at least one dimension by opposing barriers separated by a dimension of about 100 microns or less.

203. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 149, wherein said sample chamber is confined in at least one dimension by opposing barriers separated by a dimension of about 500 microns or less.

204. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 149, wherein said sample chamber is positioned in a device which comprises a plurality of sample chambers.

205. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 149, wherein the sample chamber comprises a flow through channel.

206. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 150, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 picoliter or less.

207. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 150, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 nanoliter or less.

208. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 150, wherein said sample has a volume of about 10 nanoliters or less.

209. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 150, wherein said sample has a volume of about 100 nanoliters or less.

210. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 150, wherein said sample has a volume of about 1 microliter or less.

211. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 150, wherein said sample chamber is confined in at least one dimension by opposing barriers separated by a dimension of about 100 microns or less.

212. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 150, wherein said sample chamber is confined in at least one dimension by opposing barriers separated by a dimension of about 500 microns or less.

213. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 150, wherein said sample chamber is positioned in a device which comprises a plurality of sample chambers.

214. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 150, wherein the sample chamber comprises a flow through channel.

215. (New) A method for detecting a target nucleic acid molecule in a sample, said method comprising:

loading a sample into a sample chamber comprising a flow through channel, said sample chamber further comprising constituents for cloning a segment of DNA, said sample chamber including a device for retaining a reaction product from cloning the segment of DNA;

subjecting the sample in said sample chamber to a homogeneous amplification assay comprising at least a first round of amplification under conditions such that amplification of said segment of DNA occurs and a reaction product of the amplification of a single molecule of the target nucleic acid comprises the cloned DNA segment product having a detectable concentration within a portion of said sample chamber after said single round of amplification; and

detecting the cloned DNA segment after said single round of amplification.